

SERIOUS BLUNDER OVER BSE BRAINS STUDY

Scientists at Edinburgh's prestigious Animal Health Institute have been under pressure to resign after it emerged that a five-year study into BSE in sheep was wasted because they studied cattle brains, not sheep brains.

The spectacular blunder, which went unnoticed for five years, now means that the study to determine whether BSE has spread to the national sheep flock is worthless.

The blunder only came to light when samples of the brain material were sent to the Laboratory of the Government Chemist for DNA analysis.

It means that results from the study, which took five years and cost £217,000, are "completely uninterpretable", according to Professor Peter Smith, Chairman of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC).

(Source: The Scotsman, October 20, 2001, www.thescotsman.co.uk)

CHENEY MADE MILLIONS FROM OIL DEALS WITH IRAQ

During former Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's five-year tenure as Chief Executive of Halliburton, Inc., his oil services firm raked in big bucks from dubious commercial dealings with Iraq.

Cheney left Halliburton with a US\$34 million retirement package in July 2000 when he became the GOP's [Grand Old



Party's] Vice Presidential candidate.

Of course, US firms aren't generally supposed to do business with Saddam Hussein. But thanks to legal loopholes large enough to steer an oil tanker through, Halliburton profited big-time from deals with the Iraqi dictatorship. Conducted discreetly through several Halliburton subsidiaries in Europe, these greasy transactions helped Saddam Hussein retain his grip on power, while lining the pockets of Cheney and company.

According to the *Financial Times* of London, between September 1988 and winter 1999 Cheney, as CEO of Halliburton, oversaw US\$23.8 million of business contracts for the sale of oil-

industry equipment and services to Iraq through two of its subsidiaries, Dresser Rand and Ingersoll-Dresser Pump, which helped rebuild Iraq's war-damaged petroleum production infrastructure. The combined value of these contracts exceeded those of any other US company doing business with Baghdad.

(Source: San Francisco Bay Guardian, November 13, 2000)

RESULTS OF SOY FORMULA STUDY MISREPORTED

Experts dispute the findings of a recent study on soy infant formula, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (August 15, 2001) and widely reported in the press as a vindication of soy formula. The research team, headed by Dr Brian L. Strom, called

the results "reassuring", but other scientists disagree with this conclusion.

Dr Mary Enig, President of the Maryland Nutritionists Association, points out that the researchers found higher rates of reproductive disorders, asthma and allergies in those who had received soy formula as infants.

"This is in line with a number of reports in the scientific literature," said Dr Enig. "The research team glossed over negative findings and omitted them from the abstract and conclusions, noting only that women who had been fed soy formula reported slightly longer duration of menstrual bleeding and greater discomfort with menstruation."

Other gynaecological problems, which were omitted from the main body of the report, include higher rates of cervical cancer, polycystic ovarian syndrome, blocked fallopian tubes, pelvic inflammatory disease and hormonal disorders.

In addition, although the study did not specifically determine thyroid function, soy-fed females reported higher rates of sedentary activity and use of weight-loss medicines, thus adding new evidence to numerous scientific reports of soy-induced thyroid problems.

The soy formula study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and the International



Formula Council and was carried out under the auspices of the Fomon Infant Nutrition Unit at the University of Iowa. The Unit is supported by the major formula manufacturers Ross Products Division of Abbot Laboratories, Nestlé and Mead Johnson Nutritionals.

Dr Samuel Fomon played an important role in the development of soy infant formula. Early promotional efforts for soy formula described it as "better than breast milk".

(Source: *The Weston A. Price Foundation, September 6, 2001, www.westonaprice.org*)

KEY LOCKERBIE EVIDENCE IGNORED FOR 12 YEARS

The destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie was the biggest mass murder in British history.

You might have thought it would lead to the most intense, careful investigation.

Yet in early September it was reported in the London *Mirror* that a vital piece of evidence has been ignored for 12 years. A break-in was discovered at the terminal where the luggage for that flight was stored.

Senior security guard Ray Manly says it was the most serious breach in his 17 years at Heathrow. And it happened less than 18 hours before Flight 103 took off.

This should have been at the top of the investigators' list. Instead, Mr Manly's statement was "lost"; so, too, was the padlock, which had been professionally cut.

This reeks of incompetence—or something much more sinister. It certainly throws into doubt the one conviction secured at the £66-million trial in the Netherlands.

(Source: *The Mirror, London, September 11, 2001*)

PENTAGON STOPS PUBLIC ACCESS TO SATELLITE IMAGES

The Pentagon has spent millions of dollars to prevent the public from seeing civilian satellite pictures of the effects of the bombing in Afghanistan. The images, taken by the company Space Imaging from *Ikonos*, an advanced private satellite launched in 1999, are the best available to civilians.

The decision to shut down access to the images was taken on October 11, after reports of heavy civilian casualties from the overnight bombing of training camps near Darunta, northwest of Jalalabad.

Instead of invoking its legal powers to exercise "shutter control" over civilian satellites launched from the US, the Pentagon bought exclusive rights to all *Ikonos* pictures of Afghanistan.

The US military does not need the pictures for its own purposes, because it already has seven imaging satellites in orbit. The decision to use commercial rather than legal powers to bar access to the images probably means that those legal powers might not, and probably would not, stand up to a First Amendment challenge in the courts.

The only alternative source of satellite images is the Russian *Cosmos* system. But Russia has not yet decided to step into the information void created by the Pentagon deal with Space Imaging.

(Source: *The Guardian, London, October 17, 2001, www.newsunlimited.co.uk*)

GLOBAL COMMAND EXPECTED IN WAR ON TERRORISM

United States Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is considering creation of a "global command" to fight a lengthy "war on terrorism"—a sure sign that the Pentagon is contemplating covert combat in countries other than Afghanistan.

Administration officials say Mr Rumsfeld has met several times with General Charles R. Holland, who heads the US Special Operations Command, about forming a global command at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Giving General Holland, or another

four-star officer, command of the anti-terrorism war would avoid shifting responsibility from commander to commander as anti-terror operations move from region to region. The principal war-fighting commanders, known as commanders-in-chief, or cincs, are assigned their own turf, such as Pacific or European command.

The Bush administration is in the early stages of discussing covert intelligence operations or actions by US commandos or their foreign surrogates around the world. These actions likely would not come until President Bush meets his first objective: ousting the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan and eliminating Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network.

The locations include a tri-border area of Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil; Iraq; and the Philippines.

"This is a global war on terrorism and weapons of mass destruction," General Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told ABC this week. "I think this is going to be a long, hard-fought conflict. And it will be global in scale... And the fact that it could last several years or many years, or maybe our lifetimes, would not surprise me."

(Source: *The Washington Times, October 23, 2001, www.washtimes.com*)

LAW FIRMS UNITED IN ACTION OVER VACCINE DAMAGE

A coalition of more than 35 firms filed class action lawsuits at the beginning of October against the world's leading



"This is just speculative, Mum, but if World War III does happen, how about I get the next ten years' pocket money right now?"

A TIMELINE TO THE TERROR BEFORE AND AFTER SEPTEMBER 11

by Michael C. Ruppert © 2001

This incomplete timeline, listing crucial events before and after the September 11 suicide attacks which have been blamed on Osama bin Laden, establishes CIA foreknowledge of them and strongly suggests there was criminal complicity on the part of the US Government in their execution. It also makes clear that the events which have taken place since September 11 are based upon an agenda that has little to do with the attacks.

- **1998 and 2000** – Former President George H. W. Bush travels to Saudi Arabia on behalf of the privately owned Carlyle Group, the 11th largest defence contractor in the US. While there, he meets privately with the Saudi royal family and the bin Laden family. [Source: *Wall Street Journal*, September 27, 2001. See also *FTW*, vol. iv, no. 7, "The Best Enemies Money Can Buy", www.copvcia.com/members/carlyle.html.]

- **February 13, 2001** – UPI terrorism correspondent Richard Sale, while covering a trial of bin Laden's al-Qaeda followers, reports that the US National Security Agency has broken bin Laden's encrypted communications. Even if this indicates that bin Laden changed systems in February, it does not mesh with the fact that the government insists that the attacks had been planned for years.

- **May 2001** – US Secretary of State Colin Powell gives US\$43 million in aid to the Taliban regime, purportedly to assist farmers who are starving following the destruction of their opium crop in January on the orders of the Taliban regime. [Source: *Los Angeles Times*, May 22, 2001].

- **May 2001** – Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, a career covert operative and former Navy Seal, travels to India on a publicised tour, while CIA Director George Tenet makes a quiet visit to Pakistan to meet with leader General Pervez Musharraf. Armitage has long and deep Pakistani intelligence connections and is the recipient of the highest civil decoration awarded by Pakistan. Tenet, in what was described as "an unusually long meeting", also met with his Pakistani counterpart Lt-General Mahmud Ahmad, head of the ISI. [Source: SAPRA news agency, India, May 22, 2001]

- **June 2001** – German intelligence, the BND, warns the CIA and Israel that Middle Eastern terrorists are "planning to hijack commercial aircraft to use as weapons to attack important symbols of American and Israeli culture". [Source: *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, September 14, 2001]

- **July 2001** – Three American officials—Tom Simmons (former US Ambassador to Pakistan), Karl Inderfurth (former Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs) and Lee Coldren (former State Department expert on South Asia)—meet with Taliban representatives in Berlin and tell them that the US is planning military strikes against Afghanistan in October. Also present are Russian and German intelligence officers who confirm the threat. [Sources: *Guardian*, September 22, 2001; BBC, September 18, 2001]

- **Summer 2001** – According to a September 26 story in Britain's *Guardian*, correspondent David Leigh reported that: "US Department of Defense official Dr Jeffrey Starr visited Tajikistan in January. The *Guardian*'s Felicity Lawrence established that US Rangers were also training special troops in Kyrgyzstan. There were unconfirmed reports that Tajik and Uzbek special troops were training in Alaska and Montana."

- **Summer 2001** (approx.) – Pakistan's ISI chief General Mahmud orders an aide to wire-transfer US\$100,000 to Mohammed Atta, who, according to the FBI, was the lead terrorist in the suicide hijackings. Mahmud recently resigned after the transfer was disclosed in India and confirmed by the FBI. [Source: *Times of India*, October 11, 2001]

- **Summer 2001** – An Iranian man phones US law enforcement to warn of an imminent attack on the World Trade Center in the week of September 9. German police confirm the calls but state that the US Secret Service would not reveal any further information. [Source: German news agency "online.ie", September 14, 2001]

- **Summer 2001** – Russian intelligence notifies the CIA that 25 terrorist pilots have been specifically training for suicide missions. This is reported in the Russian press, and news stories are translated for *FTW* by a retired CIA officer.

- **July 4–14, 2001** – Osama bin Laden receives treatment for kidney disease at the American Hospital in Dubai and meets with a CIA official in his suite at the hospital, at a time when he was a wanted fugitive for the bombings of two US embassies and the USS *Cole*. Yet on July 14, bin Laden was allowed to leave Dubai on a private jet, and the CIA official returned to CIA headquarters on July 15. [Source: *Le Figaro*, Paris, October 31, 2001]

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pharmaceutical companies for mercury-related brain damage predicted by vaccine critics for years. Government and industry officials have overlooked or ignored mercury and other troublesome vaccine ingredients that critics contend will be the subject of future cancer and immune disease lawsuits. Thousands of injured infants, children and teens across the United States could have been saved, experts say, if officials had simply examined the facts.

Ingri Cassel, a founding member of the national association Vaccination Liberation (www.vaclib.org), said: "Since our warnings about mercury in vaccines and other toxic ingredients yet to be removed, such as aluminum phosphate and formaldehyde, have been consistently ignored by our pharmaceutical lobby-influenced leaders in government, suing the manufacturers directly appears to be one of the only solutions left."

(Source: *News Release No. EV-66*, October 4, 2001, *Tetrahedron Publishing Group*, USA, www.tetrahedron.org)

MAMMOGRAMS NO LONGER RECOMMENDED AS SAFE

More validation of Sherrill Sellman's *Marticle*, "Breast Cancer: Detection or Deception?" (see NEXUS 8/03), appeared in the news recently. Mammography screening for breast cancer does *not* prevent deaths and should *not* be recommended, according to an exhaustive international review by high-ranking researchers.

This Danish paper is a revision of a review published two years ago, which also concluded that mammography is unjustified. The methods it used have been criticised by some as unreliable. This time, however, the Danish investigators conducted their research using a method designed by the Cochrane Collaboration, an international group whose evaluations of medical treatments are viewed by most doctors as definitive statements of their value. But Cochrane refused to publish the report unless the authors made changes.

The original version was published in *The Lancet* (October 20), with a blistering commentary from the editor Dr Richard Horton, in which he condemned Cochrane for interference that "erodes academic freedom". Dr Horton endorsed the Danish researchers' conclusions on mammography screening.

(Source: *The Sydney Morning Herald*, October 20, 2001)

DRUG FIRMS ACCUSED OF DISTORTING RESEARCH

Thirteen of the world's leading medical journals have mounted an outspoken attack on the rich and powerful drug companies, accusing them of distorting the results of scientific research for the sake of profits.

The *Lancet*, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and other major journals accuse the drug giants of using their money—or the threat of its removal—to tie up academic researchers with legal contracts so that they are unable to report freely and fairly on the results of drug trials.

The editors say that a study produced for publication may be skewed in the interests of the pharmaceutical company, which hopes to make big profits from a new drug.

Academic scientists have little choice but to accept the restrictions imposed on them, the editors say, because they know that the funding they need for research would otherwise go to the increasing number of private contract research organisations. Those organisations last year in the USA received 60 per cent of the research grants handed out by pharmaceutical companies.

The editors intend to take action by requiring all authors to disclose details of their own and the sponsoring pharmaceutical company's roles in the study.

(Source: *The Guardian, London, September 10, 2001*)

PROTESTS OVER AFGHANISTAN WAR GO UNREPORTED

They took to the streets. They raised their voices. On October 27, tens of thousands of people in 75 cities all across the United States and Europe protested the bombing of the people of Afghanistan.

They demanded an end to the frenzy of racist profiling. And they stood shoulder to shoulder to defend the most basic civil liberties that are being stripped away.

And as they demonstrated, they were forging a bond with those in more than 40 cities in 20 other countries who were carrying out similar protests at the same time.

Watching television or reading the newspapers could lead anyone in the US or around the world to believe that there is virtually no popular opposition to the war in Afghanistan—but there is!

(Source: *Workers World News Service, November 8, 2001, www.workers.org*)

- **August 2001** – The FBI arrests an Islamic militant linked to bin Laden in Boston. French intelligence sources confirm that the man is a key member of bin Laden's network, and the FBI learns that he has been taking flying lessons. At the time of his arrest, the man is in possession of technical information on Boeing aircraft as well as flying manuals. [Source: Reuters, September 13, 2001]

- **August 2001** – Russian President Vladimir Putin orders Russian intelligence to warn the US Government "in the strongest possible terms" of imminent attacks on airports and government buildings. [Source: MS–NBC interview with Putin, September 15, 2001]

- **August–September 2001** – The Dow Jones industrial average drops nearly 900 points in the three weeks prior to the attacks. A major stock market crash is imminent.

- **September 3–10, 2001** – MS–NBC reports on September 16 that a caller to a Cayman Islands radio talk show gave several warnings of an imminent attack on the US by bin Laden in the week prior to September 11.

- **September 1–10, 2001** – 25,000 British troops and the largest British armada since the Falkland Islands War, part of Operation *Essential Harvest*, are pre-positioned in and off Oman, the closest point on the Arabian Peninsula to Pakistan. At the same time, two US carrier battle groups arrive on station in the Gulf of Arabia. Also at the same time, some 17,000 US troops join more than 23,000 NATO troops in Egypt for Operation *Bright Star*. All of these forces are in place before the first plane hits the World Trade Center. [Sources: *The Guardian*, CNN, Fox News, *The Observer*, International Law Professor Francis Boyle, University of Illinois]

- **September 6–7, 2001** – 4,744 put options (speculation that the stock will go down) are purchased on United Airlines stock, as opposed to only 396 call options (speculation that the stock will go up). This is a dramatic and abnormal increase in sales of put options. Many of the UAL puts are purchased through Deutschebank/A.B. Brown, a firm managed until 1998 by the current Executive Director of the CIA, A. B. "Buzzy" Krongard. [Source: The Herzliya International Policy Institute for Counterterrorism, September 21, 2001, <http://www.ict.org.il/>; *New York Times*; *Wall Street Journal*]

- **September 10, 2001** – 4,516 put options are purchased on American Airlines as compared to 748 call options. [Source: ICT, as above, www.ict.org.il]

- **September 6–11, 2001** – No other airlines show any similar trading patterns to those experienced by United and American. The put option purchases on both airlines were 600% above normal. This at a time when Reuters issues a business report on September 10, stating, "Airline stocks may be poised to take off".

- **September 6–10, 2001** – Highly abnormal levels of put options are purchased in Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, AXA Re(insurance), which owns 25% of American Airlines, and Munich Re. All of these companies are directly impacted by the September 11 attacks. [Sources: ICT, as above; *FTW*, vol. iv, no. 7, October 18, 2001, www.copvicia.com/members/oct152001.html]

- **September 11, 2001** – General Mahmud of the ISI (see above), friend of Mohammed Atta, is visiting Washington on behalf of the Taliban. [Source: MS–NBC, October 7]

- **September 11, 2001** – For 35 minutes, from 8.15 until 9.05 am, with it widely known within the FAA and the military that four planes have been simultaneously hijacked and taken off course, no one notifies the President of the United States. It is not until 9.30 am that any Air Force planes are scrambled to intercept. This means that the National Command Authority waited for 75 minutes before scrambling aircraft, even though it was known that four simultaneous hijackings had occurred—an event that has never happened in history. [Sources: CNN, ABC, MS–NBC, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*]

- **September 15, 2001** – The *New York Times* reports that Mayo Shattuck III has resigned, effective immediately, as head of the Alex (A.B.) Brown unit of Deutschebank.

- **October 10, 2001** – The Pakistani newspaper *The Frontier Post* reports that US Ambassador Wendy Chamberlain paid a call on Pakistan's oil minister. A previously abandoned Unocal pipeline from Turkmenistan, across Afghanistan to the Pakistani coast, for the purpose of selling oil and gas to China, is now back on the table "in view of recent geopolitical developments".

- **Mid-October 2001** – The Dow Jones industrial average, after having suffered a precipitous drop, has recovered most of its pre-attack losses. Although still weak and vulnerable to negative earnings reports, a crash has been averted by a massive infusion of government spending on defence programs, subsidies for "affected" industries and planned tax cuts for corporations.

(Source: *Michael C. Ruppert* © 2001, Editor/Publisher, From *The Wilderness newsletter*, PO Box 6061–350, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413, USA, website www.copvicia.com)